MP5 Amhara

1: Messing, Simon David. The Highland-Plateau Amhara of Ethiopia. A Dissertation in Anthropology Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Philadelphia: 1957.

Pp. 1, 715; index; 15 tables; 1 diagram; 1 map; bibliography.

Hraf copy (University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, Copyflo edition)

/This work is an ethnographic monograph based on field research primarily in the district of Gondar, and supplemented by library research. A thorough and balanced description of Amhara culture is presented. The principal parts into which the study is divided are: Land, History and People, Utilization of Nature's Products, Social Organization, the Life Cycle of the Individual, Interpersonal Relations and Artistic Expression, Healing Body and Spirit, and Concluding Observations. The section on healing is especially extensive, dealing with various types of magical, medical, and mental therapy, spirit possession, sorcery and the cult activities which play a major role in Amhara Society. The author is at present Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Hiram College. --Analyst/

Field date: 1953-1954

Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1959

2: Allen, W. E. D. Ethiopian Highlands. The Geographical Journal, Vol. 101, pp. 1-15. London: The Royal Geographical Society, 1943.

Yale: E 10. R81g. v. 101.

[This work is based on observations made while the author was a member of the military mission which restored Emperor Haile Selassie to the Ethiopian throne during World War II. The account is primarily a description of the geography of Ethiopia with remarks on the history of its people. Although some description of the Amhara and other ethnic groups and their culture is presented, it is summary in nature and adds little to the information in the source 1: Messing of this file. The author includes 17 photographs and 1 map.--Analyst]

Field date: 1941
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Geographer-5
Processed in 1959

3: Buxton, D.R. The Shoan Plateau and Its People: An Essay in Local Geography. The Geographical Journal, Vol. 114, pp. 157-172. London: The Royal Geographical Society, 1949.
1 map.
Yale: E 10. R81g. 113-114

[As the title suggests, this article deals primarily with the geography of a limited area: in this case, a region about ten by eleven miles around the city of Debra Berhan, an important market town and district headquarters eighty miles northeast of Addis Ababa. The author describes in detail the geography of the region, and gives additional information on settlement patterns, agriculture and irrigation, the local market, and a description of several of the churches. Of particular interest is an original map of the area, which shows in detail topography, routes, settlements and other aspects discussed in the text.--Analyst]

Field date: 1946-1948
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Educator-5
Processed in 1959

4: Alvarez, Francisco. Narrative of the Portuguese Embassy to Abyssinia During the Years 1520-1527. Translated by Lord Stanley of Alderly for the Hakluyt Society, Publication No. 64. London: 1881.

Pp. xxviii; 416; end map; index.

[Omitted from the files: Pp. ii-xxviii, 1-20, 66-400, 413-416.]

[This source relates the adventures and difficulties encountered by the Portuguese sent to contact "Prester John," (the ruler of Abyssinia). The author, a priest, gives details of the trip from the Red Sea to central Ethiopia. Most of the information on the Amhara is given in this section. The major portion of the material specifically identifiable as pertaining to the Amhara deals with religion and material culture. This source is the earliest account of European contact with Ethiopia.--Analyst]

Field date: 1520-1526
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1959

5: Bruce, James. Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile, in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1773. Vols. 5 and 7. Edinburgh: Archibald Constable and Co., 1804.

Pp. ii, 512; iv, 436

Yale: Efbb 768Bb v. 5 and 7

/Only pp. 1-42 of vol. 5 and pp. 62-80 of vol. 7 (Vol. 7 has been given consecutive pagination following vol. 5) have been processed./

/The author, a famous early British traveler and natural scientist, gives a general picture of Amhara life, with the major emphasis being devoted to their religious observances. The account is valuable chiefly for historical reasons.--Analyst/

Field date: 1768-1773
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Traveler - 5
Processed in 1959

6: Messing, Simon D. Ethiopian Folktales Ascribed to the Late Nineteenth Century Amhara Wit, Alaqa Gäbre-Hanna. Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 70, pp. 69-72. Richmond, Va.: The American Folklore Society, 1956.

HRAF Copy

[Alaqa Gäbre-Hanna was a popular wit in the court of Emperor Menelik and among the populace. His stories and witticisms have been transmitted orally from generation to generation. The stories in this article were gathered from the Amharic-speaking peasants and nobles in his native province.--Analyst]

Field date: 1953-1954
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1959

7: Perham, Margery. The Government of Ethiopia. New York: Oxford University Press, 1948.

Pp. xxiv, 481; preface; 7 appendices; bibliography; index; genealogical table; 3 maps.

HRAF Copy.

[Only pp. 262-292 have been processed for the Amhara file.]

[This book is a general treatment of the government of Ethiopia, with special chapters on its various regions. Only three chapters, which have special bearing on the Amhara, have been processed for this file. One treats the provinces in general: provincial divisions before 1935 and the population. The others treat the Northern Provinces in particular: the emperor, the governor, and the village chief; and land tenure and tribute. The author has been especially concerned with presenting conditions as they were in 1935 prior to the Italian conquest, with additional data to bring her information up to 1945 conditions. Although only a portion of the book has been processed, the remainder is useful for its historical treatment of the political setting in which the Amhara are found.--Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-4
Processed in 1959

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8: Rey, C.F. The Real Abyssinia. 2nd edition. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1935

Pp. 291; 8 plates; end map.

[Pp. 1-57, 82-173, 198-291, have not been processed for the files.]

Yale: Bk31 4kb

[The writer, a British government official spent many years in Ethiopia during which time he traveled extensively in the country. Much of the book is devoted to political and historical matters concerning the contemporary Ethiopian state. These sections have not been processed for the Amhara file. The sections dealing specifically with the Amhara cover calendar, clothing, diet, ceremonial life, and miscellaneous aspects of Amhara culture.--Analyst]

Field date: 1910-1920
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

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9: Coon, Carleton Stevens. The Races of Europe. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1939.

Pp. xvi, 739; 46 plates; 16 maps; glossary; bibliography; index.

HRAF Copy

[Only pp. 444-458 have been processed for the files.]

[This source is taken from the section on the Mediterranean race in East Africa in Coon's authoritative work on physical anthropology. The Amhara, Galla and Sidamo peoples of Ethiopia and the Somalis are the main physical types discussed here. The author concludes from the physical evidence presented that the partly negroid appearance of Ethiopians and Somalis is due to a mixture between whites and negroes, and that the Ethiopian cannot be considered the representative of an undifferentiated stage in the development of both whites and blacks as sone anthropologists had suggested. The author, an outstanding authority on race, is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.--Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934

Evaluation: Physical Anthropologist-5

Analyst: Robert Lee

Processed in 1959

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10: Barkhuus, Arne. Disease and Medical Problems of Ethiopia. Ciba Symposia, Vol. 9, No. 7, pp. 710-723. Summit, N. J.: Ciba Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., 1947.

Yale Medical Library

[Barkhuus was with the U.S. Technical Project in Ethiopia in 1944-45 when he collected materials for this and two other articles on Ethiopian public health and medicine which appeared in an issue of Ciba Symposia devoted to Ethiopian medicine. The other articles have not been processed because they are not specific enough or do not deal with the Amhara. In this article he describes briefly the medical facilities and public health situation in Ethiopia and then presents a discussion of diseases commonly found among the population. --Analyst]

Field date: 1944-45
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Physician-5
Processed in 1959

11: Levine, Donald Nathan. Wax & gold; tradition and innovation in Ethiopian culture. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1965.

16, 315 p.: 37 photographs; 14 tables; map; glossary; index; bibliographical notes.

HRAF copy. DLC card no.: 65-18340.

[In this source, the author analyzes traditional and transitional Amhara culture from four different vantages: historical, sociological, anthropological and psychological. Each aspect of traditional culture touched on by the author is considered in light of Ethiopia's current transition to a modern state. The problems facing Ethiopia as a developing nation are pointed out and some suggestions are made concerning their solution. Examined in depth are the roles of Amhara peasants elites, intellectuals, adolescents, clergy and military. The education and socialization process and the political process are examined extensively to determine in what ways traditional patterns conflict with or contribute to the modernization process. In the last two chapters, the author delves into the psychological development of the Amhara personality. More specifically, these last two chapters are concerned with the personality factors which the author considers inhibitive of creative leadership, solidary action and social progress. Field methods included analysis of literary texts and oral traditions, use of questionnaires, projective tests, interviews and participant observation. The author spent from 1958 to 1961 carrying out field research, serving part of that time as a lecturer in the

11: Levine, Donald

University College of Addis Ababa. Bibliographic references are contained in the footnotes which can be found in category 116, pp. 287-302.

Field date: 1958-1961
Analysts: Helen Gunsher Bornstein, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Sociologist-4, 5
Processed in 1972

12: Young, Allan Louis. Medical beliefs and practices of Begemder Amhara. Doctoral dissertation (anthropology)--University of Pennsylvania, 1970. University Microfilms, Publication no. 71-19, 303. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1970 [1972].

20,257 l.; index; 8 tables; 3 maps; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[This study is a description of ideas on diseases and therapies among the Amhara. The priest-healer, debtera, is given specific attention in this study. Differences between the herbalist and other secular healers (bone-setters, midwife, etc.) and their therapies and the debtera, who heals by calling on disease-causing spirits and by recital of scripture texts are discussed in detail.]

Field date: Jan.-Dec. 1966
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
Sarah Bridges, checker

Evaluation: E-4, 5
Processed in 1972-1973